

## **Tom Russell**

### **"El Paso"**

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(Marty Robbins)

Out in the West Texas town of El Paso  
I fell in love with a Mexican girl  
Nighttime would find me in Rosa's Cantina  
Music would play and Felina would whirl

Blacker than night where the eyes of Felina  
Wicked and evil while casting a spell  
My love was strong for this Mexican maiden  
I was in love, but in vain I could tell

One night a wild young cowboy came in  
Wild as the West Texas wind  
Dashing and daring, a drink he was sharing  
With wicked Felina, the girl that I loved

So in anger I challenged his right for the love of this  
maiden  
Down went his hand for the gun that he wore  
My challenge was answered, in less than a heartbeat  
The handsome young stranger lay dead on the floor

Just for a moment I stood there in silence  
Shocked by the foul evil deed I had done  
Many thoughts ran through my mind as I stood there  
I had but one chance and that was to run

Out through the back door of Rose's I ran  
Out where the horses were tied  
I caught a good one, it looked like it could run  
Up on his back and away I did ride

Just as fast as I could from the West Texas town of El  
Paso  
Out thru the badlands of New Mexico

Back in El Paso, my life would be worthless  
Everything's gone in life nothing is left  
It's been so long since I've seen the young maiden  
My love is stronger than my fear of death  
I saddled up and away I did go

Riding alone in the dark  
Maybe tomorrow a bullet may find me  
Tonight nothing's worse than this pain in my heart  
And at last here I am on the hill overlooking El Paso  
I can see Rose's Cantina below  
My love is strong and it pushes me onward  
Down off the hill to Felina I go

Off to my right I see five mounted cowboys  
Off to my left ride a dozen or more  
shouting and shooting, I can't let them catch me  
I've got to make it to Rose's back door

Something is dreadfully wrong for, I feel  
A deep burning pain in my side

Something is dreadfully wrong, for I feel  
A deep burning pain in my side  
Although I am trying to stay in the saddle  
I'm getting weary, unable to ride  
It's getting harder to stay in the saddle  
I'm getting weary, unable to ride

But my love for Felina is strong and I rise where I've  
fallen  
Though I am weary, I can't stop to rest  
I see the white puff of smoke from the rifle  
I feel the bullet go deep in my chest

From out of nowhere, Felina has found me  
Kissing my cheek as she kneels by my side  
Cradled by two loving arms that I'll die for  
One little kiss and Felina goodbye

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